

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 NSCE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15

NSC-10 L-03 NEA-10 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-12 RSR-01 /126 W
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R 160315 Z JUN 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 260

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0322

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ETRN, CH

SUBJ: CIVIL AVIATION: AGREEMENTS WITH BRITAIN AND CANADA

REF: PEKING 0284

SUMMARY. CHINA AND THE UK HAVE INITIALED AN AD REFERENDUM CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT GIVING BOAC RIGHTS TO SERVE PEKING VIA HONG KONG, BUT WITHOUT TRAFFIC RIGHTS ON THE HONG KONG - PEKING SECTOR. FORMAL SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MEANWHILE, THE PRC FORMALLY CONCLUDED A CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WITH CANADA ON JUNE 12 IN OTTAWA.

1. CHINA AND A VISITING DELEGATION OF UK GOVERNMENT AND BOAC OFFICIALS INITIALED AN AD REFERENDUM CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT ON JUNE 13 WHICH WILL GIVE BOAC LANDING RIGHTS IN PEKING VIA HONG KONG, WITH ONWARD RIGHTS TO TOKYO AND OTHER POINTS BEYOND TO BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE.

2. ACCORDING TO UK EMBOFF (MARCH), WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE
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NEGOTIATIONS, THE AGREEMENT GIVES BOAC RIGHTS TO OPERATE FROM LONDON TO PEKING AND BEYOND, VIA FRANKFURT OR ROME; BEIRUT OR TEHRAN; KARACHI, NEW DELHI OR CALCUTTA; RANGOON; AND HONG KONG. AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED (REFTEL), THE HONG KONG- PEKING PORTION WILL BE A BLIND SECTOR. BOAC WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PICK UP OR DISCHARGE PASSENGERS IN HONG KONG, HOWEVER PASSENGERS HOLDING THROUGH TICKETS TO AND FROM RANGOON WILL BE ALLOWED STOP- OVERS IN HONG KONG OF UNLIMITED DURATION.

3. BEGIN NOFORN. ACCORDING TO MARCH, THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT WHEN SINO- THAI RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED, BOAC WILL BE ALLOWED TO SUBSTITUTE BANGKOK FOR RANGOON. END NOFORN.

4. CAAC HAS OBTAINED RIGHTS TO OPERATE TO LONDON VIA INTERMEDIATE POINTS WHICH WILL BE DECIDED LATER. (WE NOTE HONG KONG PRESS REPORTS WHICH INDICATE THE CHINESE DO NOT WISH TO FLY VIA HONG KONG .)

5. MARCH INDICATED THAT BOAC IS ALREADY SERVING ALL CITIES MENTIONED ABOVE AND WILL HAVE TO NEGOTIATE NEW RIGHTS ONLY WITH JAPAN. THE NEW ROUTE SHOULD BE PROFITABLE, MARCH SAID, SINCE IT WILL MERELY REPRESENT AN EXTENSION OF EXISTING PROFITABLE ROUTES WHICH NOW TERMINATE IN HONG KONG AND THE ADDED EXPENSE OF TURNING AROUND IN PEKING SHOULD BE COVERED BY EXTRA PASSENGERS PICKED UP WEST OF HONG KONG FOR TRAVEL INTO CHINA.

6. THE NEW SINO- BRITISH AGREEMENT WILL BE FORMALIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, MARCH SAID, PERHAPS THROUGH A SIGNING AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN LONDON OR PEKING. MARCH SPECULATED THAT BOAC WOULD PROBABLY NOT PUT ITS NEW ROUTE INTO OPERATION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

7. A FORMAL SINO- CANADIAN CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN OTTAWA JUNE 11 BY PRC AMBASSADOR YAO KUANG AND EXTAFF MINISTER MITCHELL SHARP (NCNA). CANADIAN EMBOFFS WHO HAVE SEEN PRELIMINARY DRAFTS BUT NOT THE FINAL AGREEMENT INDICATE THAT IT WOULD AUTHORIZE A CANADIAN CARRIER, IN ALL PROBABILITY CP AIR, TO OPERATE FROM VANCOUVER, VIA AN UNSPECIFIED INTERMEDIATEPOINT, TO SHANGHAI AND PEKING. CAAC WOULD RECEIVE RIGHTS TO FLY FROM SHANGHAI, VIA AN UNSPECIFIED INTERMEDIATE POINT, TO VANCOUVER AND OTTAWA.

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8. BEGIN NOFORN. THE EMBOFFS HOPE CP AIR WILL BEGIN SERVICES TO SHANGHAI AND PEKING WITHIN THREE OR FOUR MONTHS, MAKING A TECHNICAL STOP IN JAPAN. THEY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPAN ON TECHNICAL STOP- OVERS THE CANADIANS HVE ENCOUNTERED SUBSTANTIAL RESISTANCE AND " FALSE ISSUES" DESIGNED TO DENY CP AIR ACCESS TO CHINA UNTIL A JAPANESE CARRIER IS PERMITTED TO SERVE THE PRC. SHOULD THE JAPANESE PERSIST, THE EMBOFFS

INDICATED THEIR GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO " GET ROUGH" BY
THREATENING SUSPENSION OF JAL TECHNICAL STOP- OVER AND
OVERFLIGHT PRIVILEGES IN CANADA. END NOFORN.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PEKING00322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730622/aaaajfbx.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: 73 PEKING 0284
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980212
Subject: CIVIL AVIATION: AGREEMENTS WITH BRITAIN AND CANADA
TAGS: ETRN, CH
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO HONG KONG
OTTAWA
TAIPEI
TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

